



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

March 7, 2005

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE READ THIS OFFICIAL NOTICE FROM THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT
INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR 800 MHZ LICENSE(S).**

Dear 800 MHz Licensee:

This letter is to inform you that, as an 800 MHz band licensee, you may have to relocate (that is, change your operating frequency) to another part of that band pursuant to the Federal Communication Commission's (Commission) 800 MHz reconfiguration plan adopted July 8, 2004, in WT Docket No. 02-55 (*800 MHz Report and Order*). Reconfiguring the 800 MHz band is part of the Commission's solution to eliminating interference from certain 800 MHz "low site" commercial mobile radio cellular architecture systems to public safety and other "high site" radio systems operating in the 800 MHz band. (Cellular architecture systems use multiple, small "low site" base stations each serving a small area within a market; while "high site" systems use one, or a few, base stations to cover a wide area.) If licensed on certain 800 MHz band frequencies, you are **required** to move to new channels according to a designated schedule. You will be compensated for any involuntary relocation.

In the paragraphs below we provide you with some general information concerning 800 MHz band reconfiguration and provide sources of additional information. We highly recommend that if you are one of the licensees that have to relocate to a different part of the 800 MHz band that you familiarize yourself with the 800 MHz reconfiguration process and start planning for the transition/relocation as soon as possible.

The *800 MHz Report and Order* established a two-pronged solution to the interference problem. The first prong is an objective technical standard for determining whether an 800 MHz band public safety or other "high site" licensee is entitled to interference protection. The second prong of the solution, which is the principal subject of this letter, involves reconfiguring the 800 MHz band to separate generally incompatible technologies. The reconfiguration plan adopted incorporates essential elements of a proposal developed by Nextel, the major public safety communications organizations and various private wireless organizations. Under the plan, the 800 MHz band will be reconfigured to separate public safety and other "high site" systems from "low site" cellular-architecture systems. This will require many licensees to move to a different part of the 800 MHz band. Nextel will pay for all relocations necessary to implement 800 MHz band reconfiguration. Nextel is obligated to ensure that relocated licensees receive at least comparable facilities when they change channels.

The Commission established a Transition Administrator (TA), an independent third party, to oversee the 800 MHz reconfiguration process. The TA is a team consisting of BearingPoint, the law firm of Squire-Sanders-Dempsey LLP and technical consultant Baseline Telecom (BearingPoint Team). The TA has a number of duties including establishing a reconfiguration master plan *e.g.*, establishing a relocation schedule on a NPSPAC region-by-region basis and selecting the new frequencies to be used, notifying affected 800 MHz licensees of the relocation

schedule and resolving disputes between Nextel and incumbent licensees concerning cost estimates for reconfiguring a system. Prior to the start of the reconfiguration for a region but no later than the release date of a Commission Public Notice announcing the start of the reconfiguration process in a given region(s), the TA will notify each licensee in the region whose system needs to be relocated and specify a replacement channel for each channel that must be changed in the licensees' systems.

Band reconfiguration will be completed through a phased transition process over a three year period. In general, reconfiguration will be done incrementally in each of the fifty-five 800 MHz National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) geographic regions. The Commission will release a Public Notice thirty days before reconfiguration is scheduled to start in a group of regions. This Public Notice will announce the start of an official negotiation period (a three-month voluntary period and a three-month mandatory period) between Nextel and incumbent 800 MHz licensees. Licensees may negotiate directly with Nextel, or through the TA. During this negotiation period Nextel and incumbent 800 MHz licensees must conclude a relocation agreement. However, nothing in the *800 MHz Report and Order* precludes licensees from initiating negotiations directly with Nextel, or through the TA, prior to the start of any official negotiation period.

In general, licensees operating in the 806-809/851-854 MHz segment (channels 1-230) or the 821-824/866-869 MHz segment (channels 601-830) will be required to change frequency. Licensees operating in the 809-809.75/854-854.75 MHz segment (channels 231-260), in the 809.75-816/854.75-860 MHz segment (channels 261-470) or in the 815-816/860-861 MHz segment (channels 471-510) probably will not have to change unless, of course, they operate cellular-architecture "low site" 800 MHz systems, for example, systems operated by Nextel or SouthernLINC, which will be relocated to spectrum above 817 MHz. Public safety licensees operating on channels 471-510 will be moved unless they specifically request to remain on their current channel(s).

It is not possible to summarize all of the details of the 800 MHz band reconfiguration in a single letter. Accordingly, we recommend you obtain additional information from Brett Haan, BearingPoint, 1676 International Drive, McLean, VA 22102 or via email at Brett.Haan@800ta.org. For more information concerning the 800 MHz reconfiguration process in general, visit the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's (WTB) web site at <http://www.800MHz.gov>. If you have questions that remain unanswered after you have consulted with the TA and reviewed the web site, please call the WTB at 1-888-225-5322 and select option 2 or use the WTB web site to e-mail questions.

Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau